



*NCL Director-General Tseng (left) photographed in front of Yad Vashem.*

### ■ Slovenian National and University Library Director Viljem Leban Is Invited to Lecture at NCL

On January 15, 2020, Slovenian National and University Library (NUK) Director Viljem Leban was invited by National Central Library to speak on “Public lending right (PLR) in Slovenia and the rules of its implementation & plans for the New National and University Library Building in Ljubljana, Slovenia.” The lecture was held in the International Conference Hall at NCL. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that NCL signed a cooperation agreement with NUK in 2017. It is an honor to be able to invite Director Leban to visit Taiwan with all the duties he has on hand to share Slovenia’s experience in this regard. This was valuable information given Taiwan began a three-year trial of public lending right in January 2020, as well as the construction of the southern branch of NCL and other large-scale libraries.

Director Leban first explained the origin of public lending right and related bills in Slovenia. Then the core of his lecture centered on quantity and quality: he first described the protocols of Slovenian public lending right, as well as the payment system that is based off public libraries’ borrowing data on the cooperative online catalog system and service. Payments by Slovenian libraries are in support of the authors, with the primary aim being increasing the creativity of

creators in various cultural fields. These fields are the creative grounds of library resources and accord with public interest. Payments by Slovenian libraries can take two forms, each accounting for half of the payments made: (1) remuneration to living authors based on borrowing data from libraries, with the Co-operative Online Bibliographic Systems and Services (COBISS) used as the source of said data; the number of pages in a book is calculated in, and the number of times borrowed have minimum and maximum ranges set based on genre type. The value of each instance of borrowing is calculated by the payment to authors for that specific genre divided by the number of times it was borrowed that meet the public lending right criteria. (2) Competitive bonuses to encourage creators, focused mainly on the following five areas: novels, translated works, illustrations and videos, music, and movies.



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*NCL Director-General Tseng (left) presents Director Leban with a gift of appreciation.*

In addition, he also spoke about the architectural plans for the new National and University Library building in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as recent conceptual changes to those plans. In 2012, the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia (ZAPS) and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport put on an international building and city competition for the new library, which has been termed NUK2. The Ljubljanan architecture firm Bevk Perovic Architects won the bid. The finalization of project planning and the obtaining of building permit is anticipated to occur in 2020. Since more than seven years had passed, NUK2's team made some quick changes to their plans. The change in concept—which mirrors developments in university libraries around the world—means a reduction in stacks and an expansion of study space. NUK2 is designed to be a modern university library that will primarily support universities and other research organizations in teaching and research.

## Events

### ■ **The 2019 Achievement Report for the Projects “Strengthening the Operational System of City and County Libraries” and “Promoting a System of Main and Branch Public Libraries” & the International Library Benchmarking and Learning Visit in Finland Report Comes to a Successful Close**

In an effort to expand the international vision of librarians at county and city public libraries, and to promote the exchange of expertise, National Central Library held a 2019 Achievement Report for the Projects “Strengthening the Operational System of City and County Libraries” and “Promoting a System of Main and Branch Public Libraries” & the International Library Benchmarking and Learning Visit in Finland Report on January 21, 2020. Director-General

Shu-hsien Tseng mentioned in her opening remarks that in 2019 a total of six counties and cities received funding from the Ministry of Education's “Constructing a Public Library System for Mid- and Long-term Collaboration and Sharing Project,” including New Taipei City, Tainan City, Hsinchu County, Miaoli County, Hualien County, and Taitung County. This was to be used for improving the operations in main and branch libraries throughout the county or city. After one year of effort, we can look back and see the results of these efforts. We can also look to the future and provide valuable experiences that future libraries can learn from. In addition, to better understand the current conditions and experiences of target city libraries overseas in terms of operational development, in 2019 a delegation from Taiwan public libraries traveled to Helsinki, Finland to visit the benchmark libraries there. What was learned in terms of operations development, public lending rights, service quality, development projects, and other topics will provide valuable insight into Taiwan's situation.

Reporting from the International Library Benchmarking and Study Group to Finland was started off by Director of National Taiwan Library Lai-chang Cheng, who presented an overview of the trip to Finland. Next, Director of New Taipei City Library Chin-hua Wang spoke on their visit to the Helsinki Central Library Oodi and the discussion on “Promoting public libraries and public lending rights (PLR) in Finland”; Director of Tainan Public Library Yu-chen Hung shared reflections on the visit to the University of Helsinki Library, as well as the discussion on “The policy, development plan, and service quality policy of public libraries in Finland.” Section Chief of Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau Department of Library and Information System Shu-mei Yang spoke on the visit to the Kallio Library in Helsinki, as well as the discussion on “Collaboration between schools and libraries.” Section Chief of Taitung